

Peoples of Brazil
ANT4336/ANG5336/LAS4935/LAS6938
Fall 2014

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Office hrs:

Course Description:

This course takes a look at the peoples of Brazil by exploring the history, culture, and contemporary issues facing Latin America's most populous nation. Brazil is often characterized as a land of contrasts—between rich and poor; urban and rural; black and white, sacred and profane—a depiction that, though partly accurate, is insufficient. To speak of a country as massive as Brazil in terms of simple dichotomies is to ignore the inherent diversity that exists between, and outside of, these binary categories. In this course, we will cover the institutions, ideologies, and groups that coexist in seemingly contradictory fashion, paying close attention to the tensions generated by these contrasts. The course will conclude with coverage of recent developments in Brazilian society arising from its recent “boom.”

The course begins with a brief historical overview. The remainder of the course examines the enduring legacies of this history on contemporary Brazil through themes across four areas:

- Imaginary: covering popular culture and Brazilian ideologies
- Private: covering family structure, kinship, and social life and customs
- Public: covering religion and religiosity as well as government and political life
- Globalization : contextualizing Brazil's achievements within global structures and exploring the tensions arising from its prominence

Throughout the semester, we will attend to race, class, and gender as inequalities that are important dimensions for understanding social life and communities. Rather than cover these as separate from the rest of the course content, our study of these constructs will be embedded throughout the semester.

Course Format:

The course will consist of lectures and discussions. There will also be films with some films shown in class and others put on reserve. Finally, occasionally, we will have guest lecturers presenting on topics related to course material.

Course Objectives:

- ❖ To provide a broad introduction to Brazil, its people, and customs through an anthropological lens
 - ❖ To discuss globalization grounded on one nation's experience
 - ❖ To explore and critique the role of ideologies and stereotypes about national subjects
 - ❖ To further student competence in international and social studies
 - ❖ To help students develop analytical writing and critical thinking skills
- Additional FOR GRAD STUDENTS:
- ❖ To engage critically with scholarly dialogue on globalization, economic development, and national subjects

Texts and Readings:

All reading is to be done prior to class for the day it is listed.

❖ **Required Texts:**

Roett, Riordan: *The New Brazil*

Goldstein, Donna: *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*

❖ **Additional Readings:**

Supplemental readings will be posted on Sakai as links or pdfs.

Course Evaluation:**All students****Attendance and participation:**

Each student is expected to attend class regularly and participate actively in discussions. Students may be called on to summarize readings and/or provide questions for discussion. Discussion Cafés, any homework assignments, and unannounced quizzes will count toward the participation grade. **Graduate students***: will meet up with instructor twice a month for a seminar/reading group (75 minutes.)

Undergraduates only:

Exams: There will be two in-class exams (non-cumulative) to assess content assimilation.

Reflection Papers: There will be six 2-3 pp. reaction papers throughout the semester due by the beginning of class on the assigned date.

Research Paper: In addition, in consultation with the instructor, you will choose a topic for a 10-12 pp. research paper. Guidelines for the paper will be posted on Sakai. **To comply with Writing Requirement, paper is due well in advance of the end of the semester.**

This is a 6000-word (24 pages) Writing Course.

All undergraduates are expected to comply with written assignment guidelines. Please review state requirements for writing and math at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/soc/201408/gord.html>

Graduate students only:

Reading Group: We will meet as a separate group biweekly for in-depth discussion and analysis. You must select a reading pertaining to your final paper topic and lead group discussion on the day it is assigned.

Presentation: Graduate students will have to prepare a 15- to 20-minute presentation on their selected research topic prior to paper due date. Guidelines for the presentation will be posted on Sakai.

Term Paper: Graduate students must complete one 15-20 page research paper, due at the end of the semester on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

*Graduate Students will have to write some of the reaction papers, too, marked ALL STUDENTS.

Undergraduates:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Exams:	30%
Reflection Papers	20%
Research Paper	30%
Total:	100%

Graduates:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Reading Group:	20%
Presentation:	25%
Term Paper:	35%
Total:	100%

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: Attendance and participation are an important part of your grade. While attendance is not taken, it will be impossible for you to get an “A” if you are repeatedly absent or disengaged from the course.

TARDINESS: Tardiness is extremely distracting. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so very quietly. No extra time shall be allotted to complete exams or quizzes if you are late.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All writing assignments are to be handed in **ON PAPER** (sorry, Earth) in Times New Roman 12 with default margins. You are encouraged, however, to print on scrap paper or use double-sided printing. Printing problems are not an acceptable excuse for late papers.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

ALL STUDENTS: Homework assignments and Discussion Café sheets will not be accepted late.

UNDERGRADUATES: Reaction and research papers must be handed in by the **BEGINNING** of class period. Students who miss this deadline will receive a 25% deduction. **HOWEVER**, a 24-hour extension will be granted to students who are on-time and in class if requested in person (get my signature and approval on paper—this is **YOUR** responsibility to remember!) Any work received after 24 hours will receive a 50% deduction. **NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER ONE WEEK.**

GRADUATES: Late term papers will lose a full letter grade for each day it is late. A 48-hour extension on your term paper may be granted if there are extenuating circumstances. Presentations must be completed on the assigned date unless there is a documented university-approved excuse. If you are late or absent on the day of your presentation or reading group article, you will receive a 15% deduction.

THE COMPUTER ATE MY HOMEWORK: Problems with technology are not an acceptable excuse for late submission of your assignments. You should assume that technology will fail you at some point. It is incumbent upon you to **PLAN AHEAD** and not leave your work for the last possible moment.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY: Cellular phones must be put away and silenced during class meeting times. Violation of this policy will result in a warning, followed by phone confiscation subsequent offenses. Any visible cell phone during a quiz will result in the quiz being confiscated. Headphone use is not permitted in class. Laptops are conditionally accepted provided this does not affect your neighbors’ ability to attend to the class. Smiles and vacant stares at your screen signal that you are using your laptop for other purposes and your attendance grade will suffer.

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY: Only university-approved documented excuses will be accepted. Make-up will be a different format than the original.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**Academic Honesty:**

Anyone caught cheating on exams or assignments (copying or plagiarizing) will receive an “E” grade, and be referred to the dean’s office. For the University’s policy on academic honesty, please visit <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php#3>

Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, who will provide documentation to the student. This documentation must be presented to the Instructor as soon as possible in order to arrange for the accommodations.

Confidentiality:

Student records are confidential. Only information designated "UF directory information" may be released without your written consent. Please see University Regulation 6C1-4.007 for a list of the categories of information designated as "UF directory information." UF views each student as the primary contact for all communication. If your parents contact the instructor about your grade, attendance, or any information that is not "UF directory information," they will be asked to contact you. You may 1) provide the information your parents seek directly to them or 2) contact the University Registrar's Office for additional information. For more information: www.registrar.ufl.edu.ferpahub.html

Counseling and Wellness:

A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, whose goal is to help students be maximally effective in their academic pursuits by reducing or eliminating emotional, psychological, and interpersonal problems that interfere with academic functioning. The Center can be found online at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> or reached by phone at 392-1575.

NOTE: Please see the following page for the class calendar. Readings, guest lectures, and assignment/exam dates are subject to change.

Course Outline**Week 1**

August 26: Course overview (Dr. Resende out)
Why Brazil?

August 28: Imagining the past

Reading: Darcy Ribeiro's *The Brazilian People*, chapters 1 and 2 (on Sakai)

Assignment: **Reflection Paper 1** due: Imagining Brazil. In a thoughtful essay, describe your reasons for taking this course, what you know about Brazil and what you imagine about Brazil and Brazilians. You should address either Ribeiro's writing or the syllabus as a whole in terms of what further expectations they create.

Week 2

September 2: Watch: *Lost Cities of the Amazon* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtwOXOFF_Yw

Readings: Roett, Intro, Chapter 2

September 4: Colonial society, Imperial Brazil, Old Republic

Readings: Fausto, pp 1-34 (to Economic Activities)

Week 3

September 9: Building a nation: Vargas to Military Coup

Reading: Roett, Ch. 3

September 11: Latin American Collection Library Tour

Reading: Roett, Ch. 4

Week 4

September 16: **Discussion Café:** Students must come into class with a sheet of paper outlining 1) major points learned thus far 2) areas that lack clarity

Reflection Paper 2 (ALL STUDENTS) due: Brazil through the years. Preparation: select 3 news articles about Brazil, one from each of 3 decades, consecutive or not (but one article must be from 2000-present). After a brief description of each article, discuss (1 paragraph) the media's treatment/conception of the country and how it has changed (or not.) Reputable sources only: Reuters, UPI, TIME, Newsweek, BBC, etc. Radio is also permissible (NPR, PRI.) In addition to your brief analysis, bring either the articles or printout of hyperlinks with article titles.

September 18: Military Rule

Reading: Schneider: *Breaking the 'Silence' of the Military Regime: New Politics of Memory in Brazil*

Week 5

September 23: The New Democracy and Brazil today: Overview

Readings: Roett Ch. 6

September 25: Getting by: *Jeitinho*

Reading: Duarte: Exploring the Interpersonal Transaction of the Brazilian *Jeitinho* (on Sakai)

Week 6September 30: **Midterm**Begin reading Goldstein *Laughter Out of Place*

October 2: Imagining Brazil Outside Brazil

Reading: Roberts: Carmen Miranda: The Lady in the Tutti-Frutti Hat

http://www.economist.com/blogs/americasview/2010/08/comparing_brazil_and_united_stateshttp://fora.tv/2011/11/03/The_Unconquered_Brazils_People_of_the_Arrow**Week 7**

October 7: Carnaval

Reading: Williamson: Night Becomes Day: Carnival, Contested Spaces, and the Black Movement in Bahia (on Sakai)

Assignment: **Reflection Paper 3:** Using the guidelines posted in Sakai, “react” to any reading or video in this course so far.

October 9: Media and Culture

Reading: Porto: Telenovelas and National Identity (on Sakai)

Week 8

October 14: Family

Reading: Fonseca: Family Belonging and Class Hierarchy (on Sakai)

October 16: **Discussion Café:** The Insistence of Difference. Students must come into class with a sheet of paper outlining 1) major points learned thus far 2) areas that lack clarity and 3) 1 or 2 thoughtful discussion questions for the Discussion Café.Video: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/black-in-latin-america/featured/black-in-latin-america-full-episode-brazil-a-racial-paradise/224/>**Week 9**

October 21: Life on the Margins

Reading: Meis: House and Street: Narratives of Identity among Brazilian Prostitutes

October 23: Social Relations

Reading: Prado: Heaven and Hell of Personalism (on Sakai)

Assignment: **Reflection Paper 4: Research Topic (all students).** Provide a 2-page proposal of your term paper topic. Describe the topic, why you are interested in it, its significance, as well as possible references using bibliographical guidelines posted in Sakai.**Week 10**

October 28: God is Brazilian: religion and religiosity

Reading: Garmany: Slums, space, and spirituality (on Sakai)

October 30:

Readings: Public Institutions: Healthcare

Reading: http://joaobiehl.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Biehl-2006-Public_Culture1.pdf

Week 11

November 4: Education

Watch: Film: *Brazil in Black and White (Wide Angle)* at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/brazil-in-black-and-white/video-full-episode/2104/>

November 6: **Discussion Café:** Laughter Out of Place. Students must come into class with a sheet of paper outlining 1) major points learned thus far 2) areas that lack clarity and 3) 1 or 2 thoughtful discussion questions for the Discussion Café.

Finish Goldstein: Laughter out of Place

Week 12

November 11: **Veteran's Day: no class.**

November 13: **Grad Student Presentations**

Assignment: **Reflection Paper 5:** Choose and watch a Brazilian film and write a careful reaction using guidelines posted on Sakai. Film choice must be approved by the instructor.

Week 13

November 18: Social Movements

Readings: Popular press articles on recent protests, Belo Monte dam, MST, and indigenous land rights

November 20: Guest lecture: Brazil on the Global Stage

Undergraduate Papers due.

Week 14

November 25: **Grad Student Presentations**

Reading: *Roett, Ch. 8, 9*

November 27: **Thanksgiving: no class**

Week 15

December 2: **Discussion Café:** Whose country is it?

Reading: Popular press articles on "Classe C"

Also: students must come into class with a sheet of paper outlining 1) major points learned thus far 2) areas that lack clarity and 3) 1 or 2 thoughtful discussion questions for Discussion Café.

December 4: Course summation: Brazil and the Future

Assignment: **Reflection Paper 6.** Course summation—using your first reflection paper as a point of departure, discuss your experience in this course and your engagement with it. What readings were your favorites? What surprised you? What do you wish had been covered?

Week 16

December 9: IN-CLASS Last Exam